

Department of Human Services

Prepared by the
DHS Office of
Communications
(517) 373-7394



Articles in Today's Clips Friday, December 14, 2007

(Be sure to maximize your screen to read your clips)

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
*Ricky Holland	2-6
*Foster Care	7-8
Adoption	9-10
Kids Count	11-12
Child Abuse/Neglect/Protection	13-15
Juvenile Justice	16-17
Domestic Violence	18-19
Charities	20-22
State Employees	23
Triangle Project	24-25

*Important story at this spot

COULD YOU HAVE SAVED RICKY?

Chapter 12: She said ... he said

December 14, 2007

BY JACK KRESNAK

FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Twelfth of 14 parts

As she was about to be charged with assaulting her husband, Lisa Holland wanted police to hear her side of the story.

Advertisement

She was led into an interview room at the Ingham County Jail on Jan. 26, 2006. Unaware that she was being recorded on video, she listened as Sheriff's Detective Brian Valentine explained her rights and began the questioning. The session went on for hours.

She painted a portrait of Tim Holland as the family antagonist, a violent man who had "laid into" their children over the years. She said she had seen Tim put Ricky in a headlock several times and take him down hard to the floor. She'd also seen him paddle Trevor.

What else? Valentine prodded.

"I'm afraid if I tell you what happened, I'll never see my kids again," Lisa said.

At first she said she didn't know what happened to Ricky the night he disappeared and suggested that police ask Tim about that.

What might Tim have to say? Valentine asked.

Lisa predicted he'd try to blame her and say she overreacted when Ricky hit his sister the night before his disappearance. Tim might say she hit Ricky, possibly knocking him against the wall, and then gotten rid of the body. She said she didn't know where Ricky was.

Could she guess?

She said Tim might have taken Ricky to the Dansville State Game Area straight down Williamston Road. She and Tim occasionally drove that route to Jackson, but since Ricky's disappearance, Tim hadn't wanted to go down the road at all.

She volunteered to drive there with police. At one point, Valentine pulled out a county map and they talked about where Ricky might be. Again and again, she brought up her concern that if she talked, she would lose her children.

'I think Tim killed him'

After one break, Lisa asked that Sgt. Roy Holliday, the lead investigator, come in.

"I'll talk," Lisa began. "I just don't want ... you to yell."

She was worried about being judged.

"This little boy, I pushed to adopt him because I loved him so much," she said.

Slowly, Lisa told her story:

Ricky had been throwing up. Tim cleaned up the vomit and asked Lisa for garbage bags. She asked if Ricky was OK. Tim said no and told her not to come into Ricky's room.

Tim came out of the room carrying two garbage bags, one atop the other. He carried the bags toward the laundry room and told her they contained Ricky's sheets. She said she'd wash them in the morning, then heard the back door open and close. Tim came back in and suggested they go to bed. Lisa wanted to check on Ricky, but Tim said he was fine.

She went to bed, but Tim didn't. Later, she was awakened by a cell phone call from Tim. He asked to be let into the house because he didn't have his key. The next morning, the garbage bags were gone.

"I think Tim killed him and you don't know how hard that is ... for me to say that," she said.

'What's going to happen to me?'

Toward the end, Holliday got word that Andrew Abood, an attorney hired by Lisa's parents to represent her in the domestic violence case, had been at the front desk asking to see her. Twice, Lisa had been read her rights and agreed to go on without an attorney present.

Holliday's questioning became more urgent.

"I'm just trying to think. I'm not stalling. I'm just ...," Lisa said.

Holliday reminded her that Tim would be in to tell his side of the story.

"He, he, he ...," Lisa stammered.

"Come on, Lisa," Holliday urged.

"I'm not going to try to irritate you," Lisa said.

"Just say it. It's the easiest thing to do," Holliday said.

"What's going to happen to me?"

"I can't guarantee you anything, but I can tell you that you're going to be treated with respect. ... And we're not going to judge you. And we're going to do everything that we can do for your children," Holliday said.

"I'm so scared," Lisa said.

"I know you are," the detective said. "Just say it."

"Tim took Ricky's body out of the house and he threatened me, and if I ever told anybody, that would be the end," she said.

"Where's Ricky's body now?"

"That, I don't know. I don't know. He's the only one that would know," she said.

"I understand, but you have to tell me, did you see Tim take Ricky's body out of the house?" Holliday asked.

"Yes."

"Did you see Tim put his body into the garbage bags?"

"I did not see that. I was not in the room."

"Did Tim ever tell you what happened that night?" Holliday asked.

"No," she said. "But I do know that Tim did leave the house. He did come back in. The next day my son was gone."

Exasperated, Holliday asked: "Is there a reason, Lisa, that he would tell us that he ..."

There was a knock on the door. It was Abood. It had taken him nearly 20 minutes to get in to see his client.

"They were talking about Ricky," Lisa told Abood.

"Oh, they were?" the lawyer said.

The interview was terminated. Lisa was taken to court and arraigned on felonious assault and domestic violence charges and released on \$5,000 bond.

Tim Holland takes them to body

A few minutes after noon the next day, Tim Holland and his attorney, Dennis Hurst, walked into the State Police post in Jackson.

Ingham County Assistant Prosecutor Mike Ferency and Hurst had worked out an immunity agreement in which Tim promised to tell the truth about what happened and reveal the location of Ricky's body. In return, nothing he said could be used against him in court and, if he was charged and convicted, the judge would be told of his cooperation.

This was Tim's story:

Lisa dragged Ricky from his bedroom into the hallway the night of July 1, 2005, and hit him in the head with a small hammer. Ricky fell to the floor and Lisa hit him again. After seeing Ricky's lifeless body in a pool of blood, Tim got a white plastic trash bag and a larger black one and gave them to Lisa, who placed Ricky's body in the white bag and then into the black bag. Tim put the bags in the bed of his pickup, drove to the Dansville game area and tossed them into a swamp.

After giving his account, Tim signed a form consenting to a new search of his home. Just after 3 p.m., he was driven to the game area in a caravan of four police cars.

State Police Sgt. Frank Mraz said Tim was "like a beagle" looking out the car window. Suddenly, Tim said, "Right here!" The cars stopped, and Holliday and Mraz walked back toward something they spotted from the road -- a black garbage bag partially submerged in the icy swamp.

The detectives were expecting to find the body in a shallow grave. But it was in the open, perhaps 10 yards from the road, down an embankment, nestled among cattails and grasses in water that couldn't have been more than a couple of feet deep.

Mraz called to Tim to walk over. As he approached, Tim collapsed to his knees, buried his head in his hands and wept, repeating the words, "What have I done? What have I done?"

At the bottom of the embankment, State Police Lt. Jaime Corona also fell to his knees. Corona made the sign of the

cross and offered a quiet prayer. Corona said he asked "the good Lord to take this child in his hands, and for him to be healthy and happy for once in his life."

Minutes later, Sheriff's Sgt. Steve Sopocy, who had Lisa Holland under surveillance, got a radio message to arrest her.

Other kids show signs of abuse

Four-year-old Trevor was seen by Dr. Stephen Guertin at Sparrow Hospital's Regional Children's Center that afternoon. Guertin said he couldn't with certainty attribute the marks on the boy's neck and back to abuse, but because Trevor had said his mother hurt him with a spatula and a body believed to be Ricky's had been recovered, Trevor's marks could be construed as part of a pattern of abuse.

All four children underwent full-body scans a few days later. No fractures were found, but Guertin said the 20-month-old girl had a black eye and bruised cheek and 2-year-old Brett had a scratch on his back that, in the context of Ricky's apparent slaying and other events, were suspicious for abuse.

Tim had left the children with his mother and sisters, and authorities decided they would stay put. Tim and Lisa no longer posed a danger.

Child Protective Services began the process of terminating the Hollands' parental rights on Jan. 28, the same day Tim and Lisa were arraigned -- not initially on murder charges but on charges of obstructing the investigation. Murder charges wouldn't be filed for about a week, but their bonds were raised from \$5,000 to \$1 million because they were material witnesses to a homicide.

At their house, police and crime scene technicians searched one more time. Among the items seized: two spatulas and three hammers.

SATURDAY: Star witness.

Contact **JACK KRESNAK** at 313-223-4544 or jkresnak@freepress.com.

[Chapter 11: Bad news for Tim](#)

Chapter 13: The star witness

Find this article at:

<http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2007712140385>

☐ Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.



This is a printer friendly version of an article from **Lansing State Journal**. To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

Published December 14, 2007

About this series

This series is based on a review of more than 1,000 pages of confidential documents and more than 2,000 pages of police reports and court records, plus interviews with more than 30 people. The Department of Human Services declined to allow interviews of its employees.

Because of their ages and status as state wards, Ricky's siblings are referred to by their birth names. Tim and Lisa Holland changed the children's names upon adopting them.

Siblings abused by their mom after death of Ricky

Special to the State Journal

Once Ricky was gone, the abuse of his younger siblings began.

It was well concealed but was later acknowledged by Tim Holland and medical experts.

In cases of pediatric condition falsification - a form of Munchausen syndrome by proxy - parents who finish inflicting pain on one child often turn on other children, said Dr. Elaine Pomeranz, a pediatrician and child abuse expert who reviewed Ricky's case.

Such parents are usually the mothers.

"In Munchausen cases, mothers sometimes start on the younger kids only after the first one has been killed or when the oldest gets too old to manipulate without fear of exposure," Pomeranz said.

A mother's need for attention - usually from medical personnel or others trying to care for children - is the motivation for either exaggerating a child's problems or causing them.

Pomeranz thinks that's what happened with Lisa Holland.

"It's often a child with some true medical condition that feeds the (mother's) initial need for attention, but then needs to be replaced with something more dramatic or exaggerated to seem more serious," Pomeranz said.

"So, perhaps Ricky came with some true emotional issues, Lisa got hooked on the idea of making them worse. As long as she could get satisfaction from her treatment of Ricky, there was no reason to start on the others," Pomeranz said.

- Jack Kresnak

Advocacy group seeks more info on abused foster kids

State says it's cooperating

December 14, 2007

BY JACK KRESNAK

FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

The state and a New York-based children's advocacy group are again at an impasse in the federal lawsuit that could result in radical, court-ordered reforms of Michigan's foster care system.

A U.S. district court magistrate in Detroit is to hear oral arguments today by the state Attorney General's Office, representing the Department of Human Services, and Children's Rights, the group pressing a class action on behalf of Michigan's nearly 19,000 foster kids.

Advertisement

Sara Bartosz, a Children's Rights attorney, said her group has taken about 30 depositions from DHS officials about the foster care system.

"What we're seeing, loud and clear, is a system that is not managed and staffed and resourced in a way to do its basic mission and do it safely," Bartosz said this week.

"There's a lesson here that with overburdened caseworkers ... the system is not picking up the red flags it ought to to provide safety for children," she said.

She cited the Free Press' coverage of the Ricky Holland and Isaac Lethbridge cases this year for showing where warning signs that children were in danger were not heeded.

Ricky, 7, was killed at the hands of his foster-adoptive parents in 2005. His case is the subject of a 14-part Free Press series that will conclude Sunday; part 12 is in today's Life section.

Isaac, 2, was beaten to death in a Detroit foster home in 2006; his case was chronicled by the Free Press in a three-part series in January.

Children's Rights is asking the federal magistrate to order the DHS to turn over more information on issues such as the names of children who have been abused or died in foster care.

DHS spokeswoman Karen Stock said the agency has cooperated fully with Children's Rights, even giving time for one official for a deposition that took nine days and turning over more than 400,000 pages of state documents.

"We've had 15,000 hours spent on the part of our staff and attorneys, putting on these depositions, on producing documents, on the total effort here," Stock said. "I figure that's 10 people working eight hours a day for six months seven days a week."

Contact **JACK KRESNAK** at 313-223-4544 or jkresnak@freepress.com.



Legislature votes to require background checks at foster homes

12/13/2007, 6:37 p.m. ET

The Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — The Michigan Legislature has voted to require foster care providers to get criminal background checks.

School employees and day care providers currently have to get background checks.

The bill sent to Gov. Jennifer Granholm Thursday requires the state Department of Human Services to perform a criminal background check on all persons over age 18 living in a foster home.

The bill also would prevent sex offenders from getting foster care licenses.

Granholm is likely to sign the legislation.

The foster care bill is Senate Bill 271.

On the Net:

Michigan Legislature: <http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

Copyright 2007 Associated Press. All rights reserved.
This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

© 2007 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.

MIRS

December 12, 2007

Panel Says OK To Adoption Leave Bill

Parents of newly adopted children under five years of age are entitled to the same paid leave time an employer offers employees who give birth under legislation that moved out of a House committee on a party-line vote today.

Under a new version of **HB 5261**, sponsored by Rep. Matt **GILLARD** (D-Alpena), parents of newly adopted young children could not be treated differently by employers from co-workers who enjoy paid leave time for giving birth.

Initially, Gillard's bill would give leave for parents of adopted children of any age. Gillard said he set the age limit at five on the presumption that after age five, most adopted children would need to be enrolled in school anyway.

The bill comes after a teenage constituent of Gillard convinced her House member how the inequity of the current system was unfair to her parents (See "**Adoptive Parent Equality Bill Debated**," 12/6/07)

While Right To Life has supported the prior version of HB 5621, the Michigan Chamber of Commerce has not, using a government mandate argument. The bill moved out of the House Families and Children's Services Committee today without Republican support.

For Rep. John **STAHL** (R-North Branch), the reasons are many. He said adoptive parents receive certain federal tax credits biological parents can't receive, which creates an uneven standard. He noted that companies give paid leave time to employees after birth for medical reasons. Also, if the legislation is being put forward to encourage adoption, it's unneeded. The waiting list to adopt newborns and infants already is long, he said.

"I don't understand why we're using them as pawns to pass legislation," Stahl said.

Gillard shook his head after Stahl gave his reasons for opposition to reporters. Encouraging adoption is a pro-life issue, for one. Also, businesses give fathers paid leave during the birth of a child as a way to acclimate them to their new life, the exact reason adoptive parents need some time off after there is a new addition to the family.

"I think the problem is some of these deep thinkers like Rep. Stahl have never been put between the Michigan Chamber and Right to Life before," Gillard quipped.



Friday, December 14, 2007

Improving kids' health requires more money

Michigan will fail to reach targets unless government resources rise

Jane Zehnder-Merrell and Michele Corey

The latest Kids Count in Michigan report released last week shows the state cannot afford to continue the status quo for children and families. Our children are being left behind in too many critical areas. Unless Michigan acts more decisively, the state will fail to meet many national standards for healthy children, families and neighborhoods.

Michigan's lack of progress toward the national Healthy People 2010 targets -- reasonable targets for us to achieve -- suggests that our policy makers need to rethink their priorities. The message of the 2007 Kids Count report is very basic: Children, families and communities need to be healthy. Their health reflects the conditions in which they live, and the resources available to support them. Public policy decisions directly affect those conditions and resources.

The 18 targets examined in this report reflect conditions for children in Michigan and its communities from infancy through adolescence. An overarching goal of Healthy People 2010 as well as state policy is the elimination of disparities in health outcomes among racial and ethnic groups.

The findings show that as a state we will not meet many of the Healthy People targets, nor are the disparities lessening. As a result we will continue to face heavy costs for that failure. Michigan rates worsened in four areas including child abuse and neglect, low birth-weight babies, overweight high school students and a companion problem of too few youth exercising vigorously on a regular basis. Our failure to address these problems results in high costs for our communities and the future well-being of our state.

The targets that Michigan achieved long before 2010 are issues that have received priority attention in the state Legislature and by communities across the state: fully immunizing our toddlers, teen pregnancy and physical fighting among high school students. When we put resources behind reaching a target, we see some success.

Improvements have been made, but with a backdrop of increasing economic insecurity for families and the continued erosion of public dollars available for critical programs, sustaining the current rate of improvement won't get us to most of the targets by 2010.

Furthermore, there were substantial disparities by race with African-American children facing double the risk of white children, and sometimes more, on almost every indicator. For example, to reach the target rate for deaths among young children, the white rate would have to drop by one-quarter while that for African American children would require a decline more than double that between 2005 and 2010.

Locally, Detroit's high child poverty rate means one of every two Detroit children receives food stamps, compared with one of every five children statewide. Because living in poverty places children at higher risk for other negative outcomes, this is clearly of concern.

Among the most alarming findings is the rate of Detroit children under the age of 5 hospitalized for asthma. The rate is triple that of the rest of the state and growing worse.

Still, there is cause for celebration and hope. Although Detroit has yet to reach any of the 2010 targets, there was a substantial drop in the number of lead-poisoned children. Also, the rate of fully immunized toddlers has increased from 56.4 percent in 2000 to 69 percent in 2006. The target for 2010 is 80 percent, and statewide, Michigan has already achieved that target.

To improve health outcomes for children in Detroit, we can begin by ensuring that more moms are provided adequate prenatal care early in their pregnancies and continuing throughout so babies will be born at a

healthy weight.

These are reachable targets for Michigan and Metro Detroit. But we must work together with help from Gov. Jennifer Granholm and our legislators and as a community to reach them. Our children -- the future of our state -- deserve this attention.

Jane Zehnder-Merrell, a senior research associate at the Michigan League for Human Services, is the Kids Count project director. Michele Corey is director of community advocacy for Michigan's Children. The groups partner in the Kids Count project. E-mail letters to letters@detnews.com.

Find this article at:

<http://www.detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071214/OPINION01/712140320/1008>

☐ Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

© Copyright 2007 The Detroit News. All rights reserved.



Father's fate up to jury

Friday, December 14, 2007

By Steven Hepker

shepker@citpat.com -- 768-4923

The final witness in the murder trial for a Jackson father accused of smothering his 3-year-old daughter said Paul Brower is innocent.

"I knew this was absurd, that anyone would accuse him of this," Rebecca Britten-Buehrer testified Thursday. The jury deliberated about two hours and was to reconvene today.

Brower, 25, is charged with first-degree and felony murder and first-degree child abuse. The jury can consider second-degree murder, but not manslaughter.

A friend of Brower's for more than eight years, Britten-Buehrer volunteered as a character witness.

She said Brower and his daughter, Victoria, had a strong bond and that Victoria was a "perfect" child, always well-behaved. Under cross examination by Assistant Prosecutor Allison Bates, Britten-Buehrer said she had last seen the two together after Brower got married in 2006.

The girl was found suffocated to death in her bed on July 25.

Prosecutors allege Brower killed his daughter after disciplining her for repeatedly wetting her pants and putting holes in the wall of the family apartment.

Defense attorney Bruce Barton says Brower is innocent and that investigators should have charged his wife and Victoria's stepmother, Trina Brower.

Character witnesses for the defense described Tina as abusive to her 4-year-old son, mentally unstable and a liar.

The jury heard videotaped police interviews in which Paul Brower admitted he struck his daughter the day she died, but denied emphatically that he suffocated her. The tapes also showed Brower saying Trina was awake the night of July 25 after he went to bed and she might have killed Victoria.

"My wife was up a long time after I was up," he told Detective Sergio Garcia. "I am starting to wonder about her. She has always been jealous of Victoria."

©2007 Jackson Citizen Patriot

© 2007 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.



Meth busts net three

Friday, December 14, 2007

By Jake May

jmay@citpat.com -- 768-4945

Police arrested three people Thursday in methamphetamine busts at two Jackson County residences.

A 14-year-old child lived in one residence, while a 5- and 6-year-old were in the home where the other bust occurred.

Police arrested a 42-year-old Jackson County man and his 27-year-old daughter at one home and a 33-year-old Jackson County man at the other.

Stemming from two different meth investigations that originated in Blackman Township, Detective Chris Boulter obtained search warrants for two residences -- one on Bunkerhill Road between Kinch and E. Berry Roads in Henrietta Township, the other on Springport Road east of Eaton Rapids Road in Springport Township.

An active meth lab and several firearms were found at the Bunkerhill address. The 42-year-old and his daughter were arrested there.

The home has been condemned by the Henrietta Township building official because of the meth lab.

"It was clear it was a manufacturing facility," said Blackman Township officer Patrick Boulter, "And when these people manufacture meth, typically, it's not just for themselves."

The state Department of Human Services was notified of a 14-year-old child that lives at the residence. The child was not home at the time of the arrests.

The 33-year-old man was arrested at the Springport location. A quantity of meth and firearms were found at the residence.

The DHS was notified that two children, ages 5 and 6, were at the residence at the time of the arrest.

The suspects were expected to be formally arraigned on charges in court today, Patrick Boulter said.

On Aug. 29, Blackman Township authorities found the remains of an anhydrous ammonia meth lab at the Motel 6, 830 Royal Drive near West Avenue and I-94.

An arrest warrant was issued for the 33-year-old suspect.

Patrick Boulter said the man arrested in this case is not the suspect from the Motel 6 investigation.

"These arrests have nothing to do with Motel 6," he said.

Blackman Township was assisted in the most recent investigation by the Jackson County Sheriff's Department, Omni Three Narcotics Enforcement Team, Michigan State Police Methamphetamine Team and the Jackson Narcotics Enforcement Team.

ClickOnDetroit.com

Three Children Found Home Alone

POSTED: 6:07 pm EST December 13, 2007
UPDATED: 6:52 pm EST December 13, 2007

DETROIT -- Three small children were taken from their Detroit home Thursday morning after police found them alone.

The children, ages 4, 2 and 1, told police they had been by themselves for at least three days.

They were discovered when the 4-year-old went to a neighbor's home and said they were hungry.

"The (children's) house is just nasty. That's all I can say, nasty," said a female neighbor who asked not to be identified.

"I heard the baby crying when I went over there," the neighbor said. "I changed the baby's diaper and fed them something to eat."

The neighbor also called police, who arrived a short time later and removed the children from the home.

"Actually, it's heart-breaking," said Detroit Deputy Police Chief Chester Logan. "We're going to make the best of the situation and make sure these kids are taken care of."

According to the neighbor, the stove was left on and clothes were thrown all over the home. "The bathroom was flooded, water running over the tub. I tried to turn it off, but I couldn't," she said.

The neighbor said she also found a broken jelly jar and crackers on the floor of the home.

"I got a little teary-eyed when they took the kids, but I think it's the best thing to do," the neighbor said. "If the parents don't care ... I don't understand. Why would you do kids like that and leave them at home?"

The neighbor said she was not sure about the children's father, but she did recall seeing a man at the home from time to time.

Detroit police have turned the case over to the Child Abuse Unit.

As of Thursday night, police still had not heard from the mother.

Copyright 2007 by [ClickOnDetroit.com](http://www.clickondetroit.com). All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

RELATED TO STORY



Video: Three Children Found Home Alone



THE BAY CITY TIMES

NEXT:

Friday, December 14, 2007

By **CRYSTAL McMORRIS**

charmon@bc-times.com | 894-9643

When Bay City police officers Brandon Murphy and Kevin Klein arrived at 402 Catherine St. on June 5, they knew the woman who'd called 911 from there was in trouble.

"I'm dying" was what she said, a dispatcher had told Murphy, according to an affidavit filed by the officer. A male voice had been heard in the background of the 911 call.

When the officers arrived, they saw the house in disarray, "as though there were a struggle or from someone going through items in the house" according to Klein's report. The officers entered the garage, heard male voices and rustling and saw the shapes of two figures who would wind up being identified as Shawn M. Commire, 16, and Robert M. Commire, 19.

The teens appeared briefly before Bay County District Judge Craig D. Alston on Thursday and waived their right to a hearing on the evidence in an open count of murder, armed robbery, home invasion and larceny. They will be tried as adults sometime next year and face up to life in prison if convicted.

When caught in the garage, Shawn Commire had two bottles of liquor, one in each hand. He dropped them, and they shattered on the floor, according to Klein's affidavit, reviewed by The Times on Thursday at Bay County District Court.

Robert Commire dropped a plastic bag that held what turned out to be two hammers and a knife. The weapons, and his clothing and hands, reports say, were stained with blood.

Inside the home other officers found Rita M. Salogar, 83, beloved grandmother, mother, church leader and friend to many, dying from wounds to her face and neck.

The officers noticed wind blowing through an open window. Outside was a mountain bike, and a bench, pushed up to the wall.

Police from the Bay City department and the Michigan State Police Post in Bay City collected more than 20 pieces of evidence from Salogar's home. Besides the shattered liquor bottles, the weapons, the mountain bike, latex gloves and DNA samples, they took a book from a guest bedroom in the home called "The Gift of Peace."

More than a dozen of Salogar's family members and friends sat in court on Thursday; they were advised by the Bay County Prosecutor's Office to make no statements to the media.

Shawn Commire, who will be housed at the Bay County Juvenile Home until he turns 17, wore an orange jumpsuit with a yellow sweatshirt beneath. Robert, who's been on suicide watch at the Bay County Jail, wore a black sleeveless jumpsuit with fabric closures.

Defense attorneys Mark Janer, who represents Shawn Commire, and Eric E. Proschek, who represents Robert Commire, said there was no point in going through with the preliminary examination of the evidence.

"Anything that was going to be brought up, we already know," Proschek said.

"We'll proceed to trial," Janer said.

An insanity defense likely will be put forth, Proschek indicated.

Bay County Prosecutor Kurt C. Asbury said the fact that the teens signed the waiver of their right to an evidence hearing means they will face trial on all counts, so there was no reason to present the evidence.

Robert Commire's father, Robert Sr., attended the hearing.

"He did wrong," the elder Commire said. "... He's got to pay the price."

©2007 Bay City Times

© 2007 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.

Former Lion charged in assault

Porcher faces misdemeanor in incident involving ex-wife

December 14, 2007

BY JOHN WISELY

FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Businessman Robert Porcher III, a former defensive end for the Detroit Lions, is free on bond after being charged with assaulting his ex-wife at a doctor's office in Bloomfield Township.

Porcher was arrested by township police about 2:30 p.m. Monday after an employee at the office on Woodward Avenue called police about a domestic violence complaint.

Advertisement

"It was determined that the male suspect had assaulted his ex-wife and was arrested for domestic violence," Police Capt. Steve Cook said in a statement

Porcher, 38, was arraigned Tuesday on one count of assault and battery, a misdemeanor punishable by up to 93 days in jail and a \$500 fine. District Judge Marc Barron released him on a \$5,000 personal bond.

Porcher is scheduled back in court Jan. 10. He did not return messages left at his business office Thursday.

Oakland County court records show Porcher and his wife, Kimberly, divorced in 2006. They have three children.

Porcher played 13 seasons for the Lions, making three Pro Bowl appearances before retiring in 2004 as the team's all-time sack leader.

Porcher then went into the restaurant business. He is a partner in Southern Hospitality Restaurant Group, which owns Seldom Blues Restaurant, Detroit's Breakfast House & Grill and the Grand City Grille. The group manages several other restaurants in downtown Detroit, including Sweet Georgia Brown.

Porcher also is a partner in Hines/Porcher, a facilities management firm that has a contract to help operate the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center in downtown Detroit.

Porcher and Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick promoted the annual Detroit Football Classic, which featured teams from historically black colleges playing at Ford Field from 2002 to 2006.

Contact **JOHN WISELY** at 248-351-3696 or jwisely@freepress.com.

Find this article at:

<http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071214/NEWS05/712140381/1001>

☐ Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

Former Detroit Lion Robert Porcher charged in assault on ex-wife

Oakland Press

Updated: 12/14/2007 9:48:12 AM

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) — Retired Detroit Lions defensive end Robert Porcher is free on bond after being charged with assaulting his ex-wife at a Detroit-area doctor's office.

Published reports indicate that police in Oakland County's Bloomfield Township arrested the 38-year-old Porcher Monday after an office worker called in a domestic violence complaint.

A message was left at Porcher's business office on Friday.

Porcher was arraigned Tuesday on a misdemeanor assault and battery count. The charge is punishable by up to 93 days in jail and a \$500 fine. He's due back in court on January 10.

Court records show Porcher and his wife, Kimberly, divorced in 2006. They have three children.

Porcher played 13 seasons for the Lions. He's the team's all-time sack leader

Morning Sun

December 14, 2007

Need up, gifts down at Salvation Army

Updated: 12/14/2007 6:53:34 AM

It's not unexpected because of the economy, but things aren't going so well at the Salvation Army in Alma this Christmas season.

Captain Allen Hanton of the Salvation Army in Alma said he will gladly take "silver, copper, green, and brightly colored checks," as well as plain ones.

Kettle donations are falling behind this year, while requests for help have gone up.

Last year on the first day of sign ups, the Salvation Army registered the names of about 60 families

This year, 163 families signed up on the first day.

During the month of November, a total of 262 Gratiot County families continued to register until the very last day, when the organization had to signal the end.

Overall, about 40 more families are needing help than last year.

And still the calls keep coming.



THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

Many volunteers share warmth of their hearts

Friday, December 14, 2007

A warm coat doesn't seem like a big deal - unless you don't have one.

Many kids don't. Nor do they have hats, gloves, socks - many of the things we take for granted during a Michigan winter.

Eleven years ago, Cathy O'Donnell - then a reporter at The Ann Arbor News - wanted to do something about that. She helped launch The News' Warm the Children program, which each year since then has provided necessary winter garb for many of our community's neediest families.

That first year, Cathy and a host of other volunteers raised money to buy \$80 worth of clothes for each of 958 kids. At the time, that seemed like an enormous amount.

However, the need has grown dramatically, in part because of a sharp downturn in the local and state economy. This year, our goal is to provide \$90 each for 2,900 children in Washtenaw and Livingston counties.

Many people are surprised that the need is so great, even in places like Ann Arbor.

"It's not just a homeless issue," Liz Margolis, spokeswoman for the Ann Arbor Public Schools, told The News. "There is an increase in homeless families, but more families are in need who are not homeless, who went from two incomes to one, or one to none. Many would have been considered middle class, but they now find themselves in need."

We can reach our ambitious goal only with the astounding generosity of hundreds of volunteer shoppers, organizations and readers who have contributed financially to this effort.

The money you give goes directly to clothes for children, as The News pays for all costs to administer the program. We match kids and their families - referred to us via schools or social workers - with volunteers who take them shopping at stores where they can pick out what they need.

Warm the Children relies on individuals like Margot and John Schreer, who spend hundreds of hours each season coordinating hundreds of volunteer shoppers, and Nancy and Todd Leff, who set up and manage the database used to match shoppers with families. Dozens of religious groups, nonprofits, civic organizations and local businesses throughout the community contribute time and money. We can't name them all in this limited space, so here's just a sampling: Grace Romanian Pentacostal and St. Mark's Lutheran in Ypsilanti; the Ann Arbor and Brighton Jaycees; New Beginnings Free Methodist Church, St. Paul Missionary Baptist and Interfaith Hospitality Network in Ann Arbor; First Baptist Church of Brighton, Brighton Church of Christ, St. Patrick Catholic and St. Mary Magdalen in Brighton; Peace Lutheran in Dexter; Kiwanis clubs in Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, Manchester, Chelsea, Brighton, Dexter, Hamburg and Whitmore Lake; and several University of Michigan sororities.

Those groups and individuals - and so many others - are tremendously generous in spirit and commitment, and make us proud to be part of this community.

We thank you all, and we can't thank you enough.

©2007 Ann Arbor News

© 2007 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.



Shop with a cop

Friday, December 14, 2007

By **Danielle Quisenberry**

dquisenberry@citpat.com -- 768-4929

Sixteen kids gathered Thursday afternoon at Little Caesars in Blackman Township, waiting anxiously to rip apart the neatly wrapped packages set before them.

Given the OK by a man dressed as Santa, they tore into the packages, admired the contents and boasted of them to their peers and chaperons.

The kids, selected from eight area schools, shopped for their families Thursday with officers from eight Jackson County township departments.

They then went to Little Caesars to eat pizza and open gifts the officers had earlier selected for them from their Christmas lists.

"I've been begging for this for years," said Angela Zamer, 11, a sixth-grader at Kidder Middle School who received a Jessica Simpson holiday CD.

She and other kids were all smiles as they surveyed their gifts, purchased with money raised by the Jackson County Township and Village Police Association of Jackson County, which organized a "Shop with a Cop" event for the first time.

Paired with officers, the children shopped for their families at Wal-Mart on W. Michigan Avenue with gift cards donated by the store.

"It was wonderful to see the expressions on these kids," said Kevin Szentmiklosi, a Parma-Sandstone officer and president of the village and township association.

The kids were selected by administrators, counselors or teachers as children who might need help with Christmas this year, said Cathy O'Connor, a counselor at Kidder Middle School. "It is very generous of the police officers to do this for them."

©2007 Jackson Citizen Patriot

© 2007 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.

MIRS

December 12, 2007

Survey: State Employees Paid OK In MI

Michigan has relatively fewer state and local employees than other states, but tends to pay the ones they do have better than most other states, according to a new report released by the Citizens Research Council of Michigan (CRC).

According to the study, "State and Local Government Employment: A Comparative Analysis," in 2006:

- Michigan ranked 45th of 50 states in the number of state and local employees per 10,000 residents, and 39th of 50 when only state employees are considered.
- Because of its extensive system of community colleges and public universities, Michigan has more public employees relative to population in higher education.
- In other areas, including police and fire protection and corrections, Michigan is below the national average.

With respect to state employees only, the average base salary ranged from \$28,100 in Mississippi to \$69,100 in California, with 41 states participating in a February 2007 survey conducted by the

Association of State Personnel Executives.

Michigan ranked 6th at \$49,700. Average fringe benefits for Michigan state employees, largely consisting of pension and health care benefits, were \$25,700 a year, which ranked 3rd behind Alaska and Nebraska.

"State and local governments are major employers," said CRC President Earl **RYAN**. "It is important that citizens and policy makers have information on employment levels and employee compensation to assure that their governments are both competitive and efficient."

Misinformation surrounds move by State Police

December 14, 2007

BY STATE REP. MARK MEADOWS

The move of the Michigan State Police headquarters from East Lansing to downtown Lansing makes neither operational nor fiscal sense.

Here is a correct statement of facts on this matter:

Advertisement

- The State Police requested the move.

FALSE: State Police personnel have told me they did not, and if they had a list of 100 needs, this move would be at the bottom of that list.

- Michigan State University requested the move.

FALSE: University officials have indicated that when asked, they said that they would like the headquarters land back to develop for university uses and that they did not initiate any discussion regarding the move.

- The Michigan Department of Management and Budget has determined that the cost of maintaining the current HQ is greater than the cost of moving to the downtown location.

FALSE: The cost of the Triangle Project over the period remaining on the current HQ lease is actually \$26,388,137 more than the cost of staying put.

- The triangle location will take care of the needs of the State Police.

FALSE: The Triangle Project is 148,000 square feet. The State Police (MSP) currently use 170,994 square feet. And the current HQ site provides parking for 350 vehicles; the new site will provide parking for 150.

- The Michigan Constitution requires that the HQ be in the city of Lansing.

FALSE: The same language was in effect when the HQ was constructed in East Lansing. The constitution provides that power to determine the location of the principal office of an agency is legislative, not executive.

- The triangle facility cannot cost the state more than \$100 million.

FALSE: Again, the minimum 25-year cost of the Triangle Project to the state is \$122,534,358.

- The move would comply with executive directive 2003-2222, which says that state office buildings should attempt to locate in central business districts to stimulate economic growth, increase accessibility to government services and decrease urban sprawl.

FALSE: Moving the HQ from one urban area to another, especially to a location that is less accessible, does not further the objectives in the directive. Further, State Police do not provide services to the general public at the HQ; they provide services to other police agencies. In any case, an executive directive does not have the force of law.

Surprisingly, this no-bid contract has engendered an impassioned defense. If the project was part of the State Police 5-year capital outlay request, if it had been competitively bid and if the Department of Management and Budget approved studies, plans, architects, etc., for the project, the public would be better served. If this project ended up being the choice, at least public confidence in it would be enhanced. Right now, there is none.

The project should be scrapped, and we should start the process over again.

State Rep. Mark S. Meadows, D-East Lansing, represents the 69th House District. His office phone is 517-373-1786; his e-mail is markmeadows@house.mi.gov.

Find this article at:

<http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071214/OPINION02/712140321/1068/OPINION>

☐ Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.